

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 275

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OVIP (SECRETARY ROGERS)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF WATERGATE HEARING, MAY 23, 1973

FROM THE OPERATIONS CENTER

MORNING SESSION PROVIDED NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS. IN A LENGTHY STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON, GERALD ALCH, MCCORD' S FORMER ATTORNEY, REVIEWED IN DETAIL HIS LAWYER- CLIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH MCCORD. SINCE HIS STATEMENT CONSUMED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY AND AGREED TO QUESTION MR. ALCH THURSDAY, MAY 24. MAJOR POINTS TO EMERGE FROM THE STATEMENT WERE:

1. AT NO TIME PRIOR TO HIS TRIAL DID MCCORD EVER STATE TO ALCH A BELIEF THAT THE WATERGATE BREAK- IN WAS LEGAL DUE TO APPROVAL BY FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL, WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN DEAN, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.
2. ALCH DENIED THAT HE AT ANY TIME PRESSURED MCCORD TO PLEAD GUILTY AND REMAIN SILENT OR CONVEY OFFERS OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY. HE ACCUSED MCCORD OF TAKING CERTAIN STATEMENTS OUT OF CONTEXT.

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3. AT NO TIME DID ALCH TELL MCCORD THAT CIA PERSONNEL FILES COULD BE ALTERED TO SHOW THAT MCCORD WORKED FOR THE CIA AT THE TIME OF THE WATERGATE BREAK- IN. IN EFFECT, HE ACCUSED MCCORD OF LYING.

4. MCCORD' S PRESENT ATTORNEY, BERNARD FENSTERWALD, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RAISING \$40,000 OF THE \$100,000 BOND IMPOSED UPON MCCORD BY JUDGE SIRICA.

5. AT THE TIME MCCORD WAS TESTIFYING BEFORE THE GRAND JURY AND SENATE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS (IN MARCH AND APRIL 1973), FENSTERWALD, WHO HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING MCCORD, TOLD ALCH " WE' RE GOING AFTER THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES." RUSH

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